

Earl House (Red House)
Three miles east of Chester
on State Route 103
Chester vicinity
Windsor County
Vermont

HABS No. VT-43

HABS,
VT,
14-CHESTER
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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

EARL HOUSE (RED HOUSE)

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Location: Three miles east of Chester on State Route
103, Chester vicinity, Windsor County, Vermont.

Present Owner: Elmer L. Butler, Chester, Vermont

Brief Statement
of Significance: This L-shaped building has two facades in
different styles built at slightly different
times. The older wing is a lean-to, an
unusual type for this area.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners: Built by Xavier Earl whose initials are marked on the chimney. George Earl, the second owner. Owned by a Mr. Henry in 1809.
2. Date of erection: Lean-to section with east facade erected in 1793. Georgian style addition with north facade erected in 1796. (Dating is from deeds).
3. Notes on alterations and additions: Ell at rear and shed of later date.
4. Important old views: Owner has old photograph of house.

Prepared by Dr. Frank J. Roos, Jr.
University of Illinois
for National Park Service
July 1959

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Unusual example of L-shaped house, one wing 17th c. (?)
type salt box, other wing, three years later,
Georgian.
2. Condition of fabric: Fair

VT
14-CHEST V.
15

B. Technical Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: Two-and-one-half stories.
2. Foundations: Fieldstone.
3. Wall construction: Timber frame. Beams, pegged and mortised.
4. Chimneys: Central chimney of salt box house continued in use after Georgian ell added, with rear Kitchen and opening now being central hall of Georgian ell. Five openings and oven.
5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Early east salt box door, simple board frame, five lights over. Later Georgian n. facade, five bay with Georgian molding, with cushion frieze.
 - b. Windows and shutters: mostly 12 over 12 double hung.
6. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: Gable roof with gable at each end of ell. Shingles.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: Early east facade simple board cornice. Later Georgian facade cyma-reeta cornice with fillet below.

C. Technical Description of Interiors:

1. Floor plans: L-shaped plan. Entering Georgian facade door with central hallway, two rooms on the left, as part of old house, one on right in the newer house.
2. Stairways: Early stairway was open, now boarded up. Georgian wing stairway of no distinction. Stenciling (faded) on wall of old stairway.
3. Flooring: Pine, random width.

VT
14-CHESTER
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4. Wall and ceiling finish: Walls around chimney column panelled in all rooms. Much original plaster, wall and ceilings, on split lath.
5. Doorways and doors: Simple board frames. Doors panelled without moldings.
6. Trim: Low chair rail in the early rooms.
7. Hardware: Some original.
8. Lighting: Electric
9. Heating: Central and fire places. Fireplace openings simply molded, with large board panels over.

D. Site

1. General setting and orientation: Close to road. Two facades, east and north.
2. Outbuildings: Partly burned barn.
3. Landscaping: Shrubs, trees, lawn.

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